

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY PORT LOUIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6085

INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

C O N F I D E N T I A L PORT LOUIS 0738

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PORG, UNGA, KN, KS, MP, US

SUBJECT: MULTILATERAL AFFAIRS: KOREAN QUESTION AND PUERTO

RICO

REF: PORT LOUIS 688

1. AT MY MEETING WITH PRIME MINISTER RAMGOOLAM ON AUGUST 10 I RAISED WITH HIM THE TWO ISSUES OF INTEREST TO THE USG THAT I HAD EARLIER DISCUSSED WITH MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS WALTER (REFTEL). I SAID THAT SIR HAROLD HAD PROMISED TO BRIEF HIM ON THEM. RAMGOOLAM NODDED ASSENT, BUT ALSO MADE NOTES IN THE FOLDER LABELED "NON-ALIGNED SUMMIT CONFERENCE" WHICH WAS PROMINENTLY DISPLAYED ON HIS DESK.

2. ON PUERTO RICO I SAID THAT THE USG CONSIDERED IT AN INTERNAL MATTER WHICH SHOULD NOT BE DISCUSSED IN ANY INTERNATIONAL FORUM. SELF-DETERMINATION HAD ALREADY BEEN EXERCISED AND WAS A CONTINUING PHENOMENON SINCE ELECTIONS ARE HELD IN PUERTO RICO EVERY FOUR YEARS AND THE VERY SMALL PARTY WHICH ADVOCATES INDEPENDENCE HAS COMPLETE FREEDOM TO MAKE ITS CASE. I SAID ELECTIONS WOULD BE HELD AGAIN IN NOVEMBER AND IF AT ANY TIME SENTIMENT FAVORING INDEPENDENCE, OR STATEHOOD FOR THAT

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MATTER, SHOULD GAIN THE ASCENDANCY BY BECOMING THE MAJORITY,

THE USG WOULD ACCEDE TO THAT WISH. RAMGOOLAM MADE NO RESPONSE OTHER THAN TO SAY THAT PUERTO RICO WAS A BEAUTIFUL PLACE.

3. ON KOREA I EMPHASIZED SECRETARY KISSINGER'S REMARKS IN HIS JULY 22 SPEECH AND SPECIFICALLY HIS RENEWAL OF THE PROPOSAL FOR A ROUND-TABLE CONFERENCE AMONG THE INTERESTED PARTIES. I SAID WE EXPECTED NORTH KOREA TO PUSH ITS POSITION AGGRESSIVELY AT COLOMBO.

4. RAMGOOLAM'S RESPONSE WAS SURPRISINGLY PRO-SOUTH KOREAN. HE SAID HE HAD VISITED SOUTH KOREA A COUPLE OF YEARS AGO AT THE INVITATION OF THAT GOVERNMENT AND HAD MET WITH PRESIDENT PARK AND HIS FOREIGN MINISTER. HE HAD NEVER VISITED NORTH KOREA, ALTHOUGH HE HAD BEEN INVITED THERE. RAM SAID THAT SOUTH KOREA SHOULD NOT BE "BOTHERED FOR IDEOLOGICAL REASONS" WHEN IT WAS MAKING PROGRESS AND DEVELOPING NICELY. HE MENTIONED THAT THE NORTH KOREANS HAD BEEN STATIONING TROOPS CLOSER TO THE FRONTIER THAN THEY OUGHT TO AND HAD BEEN ANNOYING THE SOUTH KOREANS BY TUNNELING UNDER THE BORDER. HE SAID SOUTH KOREA WAS A BEAUTIFUL COUNTRY THAT SHOULD BE LEFT ALONE. RAM ALSO NOTED THAT NORTH KOREAN REPRESENTATIVES HAD BEEN IN PORT LOUIS TO MAKE THEIR CASE DURING HIS ABSENCE ABROAD. WITH A SMILE HE ADDED THAT OF COURSE HE HAD NOT BEEN ABLE TO SEE THEM. RAMGOOLAM MENTIONED THAT BOTH NORTH KOREA AND SOUTH KOREA HAD INVITED HIM TO VISIT THEIR COUNTRIES BUT HE DID NOT EXPECT TO BE ABLE TO DO SO THIS YEAR BECAUSE OF THE ELECTIONS AT HOME IN MAURITIUS.

5. RAMGOOLAM APPEARED TO BE PREOCCUPIED WITH THE QUESTION OF THE FORTHCOMING PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS, WHICH HE MENTIONED SEVERAL TIMES, AND WHICH HE SAID WOULD DEFINITELY BE HELD THIS YEAR.
KEELEY

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